



Friday

Pageant night...I was nervous but I wasn't. I was really excited for the opening act and thought it was great choreography by Dakoda, an English teacher from Samoana High School and his students. Overall the pageant was fast and before I knew it, it was over. It was great fun and I'd absolutely love to do it again. In the end I didn't get placed, but I come out with a consolation prize of \$500 US and a huge gift basket from the Department of Commerce so that was good. But even to just experience it all makes me feel I am a winner too.

Thanks to Leanne Linley.

Thanks to Paul and Rangi Ragiheuea and Edward Watene. Thanks to Rakaumunga School and Huntly College for providing my Talent Costume. With the help of Joanne Kenny, Kupe Kingi, Polly Daniels and Vanessa Moana. Talent help: Many thanks to Kimbillie and Piupiu Green, Aroha Patea and Oke Rapan.

Thanks to Tipa Mahuta, Rama Kete, Jeanine Keating and Kiri Kirtwood.

Saturday

Prizegiving and gift exchange was very emotional for all of us. We had become very close friends, you would think we knew each other for years the way we all connected. Gift exchange was sad, I'm pretty sure we all cried. We presented our gifts to each other and enjoyed our last official meal at the Equator Restaurant.

It was an honour for me to travel to American Samoa and represent Aotearoa, New Zealand and to be on stage with such strong minded women. I feel so proud of myself for doing it. It was a once in a life time opportunity and I am very grateful for all the help and support from everyone - including my family and friends. Thank you all.



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